

Publication:Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Date:Jun 14, 2009

Section:Northwest Profile

Page Number:40

NORTHERN LIGHTS

One Particular Harbor sets sail with \$80,000

— Bobby Ampezzan

FAYETTEVILLE — It's with good reason that Scott "Hook" Harmeling comes up from Dallas every year for The Ryan Gibson Foundation's One Particular Harbor party, why he goes to parties at different chapters throughout the country — "I still miss him."

Of course, he's also the executive director of the foundation when he's not holding down a commercial real estate practice in Dallas. "I'm inspired by the people he inspired," he says of the late Gibson.

Those inspired turned out in droves at the Fayetteville Town Center the night of June 6 for One Particular Harbor, one of several fundraisers at foundation chapters throughout the country named for Jimmy Buffett song titles. (It's a little known fact that Gibson shaved his head and attended a Buffett concert the night before his Medical College Admissions Test, which he then aced.)

Gibson was the oldest son of Springdale's Carol Lynn and Don Gibson who died in January 2001 after a six-year struggle with leukemia. Harmeling, a former college roommate, started the foundation that has raised more than \$1 million to date.

The night raised close to \$80,000, less than the nearly \$100,000 raised last year. Still, at \$75 each, 450 tickets were sold by the foundation and 64 people paid for admission at the door, a good indication of the expected fun inside.

This year's "harbor captains" — underwriting sponsors who gave \$3,000 to offset expenses — included Henry Eye Clinic; Mark Henry and Catering Unlimited; The Pinnacle Group including Johnelle Hunt and Tim Graham; Dick and Mary Stockland; Shirley and Pete Esch; the L.H. Schmieding Foundation and Lawrence and Helen Schmieding; Dennis Smiley and Blake Hanby

with Arvest Bank and Waco Title Co., respectively; and Randy and Christine Meier with Signed Sealed and Delivered.

Harmeling introduced Chris Weiser for an ovation and a pair of silver Ryan Gibson Foundation logo cufflinks for his work organizing a golf tournament fundraiser every year.

Borrowing his brother's favorite expression, Derek Gibson said, "Work like you don't need the money, love like you've never been hurt, dance like no one's looking."



Don and Carol Lynn Gibson with Debbie and Chris Weiser



PHOTOS BY BOBBY AMPEZZAN Riley Shearin, Stuart Staggs, Derek Gibson and Adriane and Scott "Hook" Harmeling of Dallas



Gaye Cypert, Johnelle Hunt and Ruth Jones



Mary Ann Greenwood and Amy Smith with Tony Sherman (in back), Reed Greenwood and Dr. Harvey Smith